

For immediate release / September 6, 2007

**FILMMAKER CHARLES BURNETT TO INTRODUCE NEW PRINT OF
KILLER OF SHEEP AT WEXNER CENTER IN SEPTEMBER**

"An American masterpiece. Independent to the bone." —Manohla Dargis, *New York Times*

Filmmaker **Charles Burnett** comes to the Wexner Center **Friday, September 28** at 7 pm to introduce a brand new 35mm print of *Killer of Sheep*, his widely acclaimed debut film. Finally receiving a traditional release after being tangled up in issues involving music rights, this release is one of the major cinematic events of the year. The film will also screen on **Thursday, September 27** and **Saturday, September 29** without Burnett's introduction. **Tickets are \$7 for the general public and \$5 for Wexner Center members and students** and are available now. Tickets can be purchased at the Wexner Center ticket office (614 292-3535) or Ticketmaster (614 431-3600) or Ticketmaster.com.

Created as Burnett's thesis film at UCLA, *Killer of Sheep* captures the realities of everyday life for a working class African American family in the Watts neighborhood of Los Angeles. Often compared to neorealist classics such as *The Bicycle Thief* or *Paisan* because of its gritty look, handheld camera, and portrayal of quotidian concerns, the film was selected by the Library of Congress as a national treasure and entered in the National Film Registry for its historical significance. The film's release has been receiving abundant acclaim, with the *Boston Globe* calling it "a flat-out treasure, impervious to time" and Dave Kehr of the *International Herald Tribune* proclaiming it "one of the finest American films, period."

Burnett, called "a one-man African American New Wave" by *Senses of Cinema*, has also directed such acclaimed films as *To Sleep with Anger* (1990) starring Danny Glover, *The Glass Shield* (1994), and *Nightjohn* (1996) to name just a few. *Nightjohn* screened at the Wexner Center as part of the first Columbus International Children's Film Festival. More information on *Killer of Sheep* and Charles Burnett is available at www.killerofsheep.com. More information on the Wexner Center's film schedule is available at www.wexarts.org/fv.

Contact Erik Pepple at 614 688-3261 or epepple@wexarts.org for digital images.



Killer of Sheep

Image courtesy Milestone Films

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